

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes ☐
no ☒

Property Name: Houck House Inventory Number: CARR-1696
Address: 1418 Pinch Valley Road Historic district: ☐ yes ☒ no
City: Westminster Zip Code: 21157 County: Carroll
USGS Quadrangle(s): New Windsor
Property Owner: Mary Houck Tax Account ID Number: 07 081391
Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 427 Tax Map Number: 30
Project: Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Improvements to C Agency: Delta Associates
Agency Prepared By: Coastal Carolina Research, Inc.
Preparer's Name: Jennifer Stewart Date Prepared: 7/3/2008
Documentation is presented in: Architectural Investigations
Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: ☒ Eligibility recommended ☐ Eligibility not recommended
Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D Considerations: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:
Name of the District/Property: _____
Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: ☐ yes ☐ no Listed: ☐ yes ☐ no
Site visit by MHT Staff ☐ yes ☒ no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Houck House (CARR-1696) is located at 1418 Pinch Valley Road. Built c. 1840, this two-story log house features a double-pen plan and is on Martenet's c. 1862 map as being owned by the Burns family. The house rests on a solid foundation of randomly laid stone. This two-story house has exterior walls clad in vinyl siding that was added in 1987 by the Houck family, and the gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal. A brick chimney is located in the interior of the roof (stove pipe flue), and a second brick chimney is located on the south exterior end (furnace flue). A shed-roof addition has been appended to the east elevation and spans the entire façade. The addition contains the kitchen and was built by the Houck family c. 1945. Fenestration consists of one-over-one aluminum sash windows. The exterior placement of windows and doors is in no way symmetrical or evenly spaced. To the south is the original kitchen that is housed in a separate structure from the dwelling, and has a covered exterior walkway that leads to the house. The kitchen is clad in vinyl siding, and the gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal. A brick chimney is in the interior portion of the kitchen's roof, and the windows are six-over-six wooden double-hung sash. The interior of the kitchen contains a large brick fireplace, original wide pine flooring, a narrow set of wooden stairs against the south interior wall that lead to a small attic, and wooden shelves on each side of the fireplace.

The interior plan and form of this double-pen log house remains intact. The dimensions are approximately 16-x-20 foot. The east

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MHT Comments: *Representative example of a regional type*
[Signature] 2/6/09
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date
[Signature] 2/6/09
Reviewer, National Register Program Date

200809176

elevation of the log structure, which was originally the exterior wall, features two original entry doors that display the wall thickness to be approximately one-foot wide. The first floor features a two-room plan; the rooms are divided by a log partition wall, and one doorway in the center of the wall connects the two rooms. The log walls on the first floor interior are currently covered in wooden paneling, but the logs are still intact under the paneling. There is no evidence of a fireplace on the interior, only a hole in the ceiling for an old stove pipe. The current owner, a member of the Houck family, reports that the house never had a fireplace only a cast iron stove for heat (Dennard L. Leister, personal communication 2008). Research concerning the likelihood of an absent fireplace points out that European settlers, especially the Germans were very likely to have utilized cast iron stoves in their homes during the mid-nineteenth-century. Dutch, Swedish, and German settlers of the American colonies, especially those of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, brought with them five-plate stoves or molds for casting them (Getty 1987).

A stairway tucked into the southwest corner of the first floor, leads to the second floor. Dennard Leister, one of the current owners, also reports that another staircase that led to the second floor on the north interior wall of the house has been removed. The second floor was originally two rooms, but a full bathroom has been added in addition to the two rooms. The interior walls of the second floor are covered in what may be the original plaster. The wide pine flooring throughout the house is intact, but covered in carpeting. An enclosed stairway is tucked into the southwest corner of the second floor that leads to a small attic. The corner walls in the enclosed staircase reveal whitewashed logs. The corners of the house appear to be locked together by the V-notching technique and then they were chinked. The original wide pine floors are visible in the attic. Log beams are visible along the outside edge of the second floor ceilings that run from the north to south of the house. The south elevation of the house features stairs that lead to a dugout cellar.

To the south of the house is a barn complex. A large barn, which is clad in vertical boards and has a gabled roof covered in standing-seam metal, rests on a solid foundation of concrete block. The barn is connected to a smaller barn (hog pen) by a metal-clad animal shelter with a concrete block foundation. The metal animal shelter is open on the lower level to the southeast, and the second floor is enclosed with corrugated metal and provides a walkway between the two barns. The smaller barn (hog pen) features exterior walls that are clad in vertical boards and a gabled roof covered in corrugated metal.

Southeast of the house is a corncrib, which rests on a foundation of concrete block piers and is clad in evenly spaced vertical strips of wood. The corncrib displays a shed roof covered in standing-seam metal. To the south of the house is another corncrib, which is between two open bays used for farm equipment storage; a small barn has been appended to the southeast of the structure. The corncrib is clad in evenly spaced vertical strips of wood, and displays a shed roof covered in standing-seam metal. The shed roof covers the corncrib and both open bays. The small barn appended to the structure rests on a stone foundation. Its walls are covered in vertical boards, and the gabled roof is clad in standing-seam metal.

Southwest of the house are a chicken house, two turkey pens, and a smokehouse. One turkey pen (A) is clad in T-111 siding, and a portion of the structure is constructed of concrete block; this turkey pen features a shed roof covered in standing-seam metal. The second turkey pen (B) features exterior walls that are covered in T-111 siding and a shed roof clad in standing-seam metal. The chicken house is clad in drop-siding with a shed roof covered in standing-seam metal.

Historic Background: According to deed research conducted at the Carroll County Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Westminster, the Houck House, CARR 1696, was most likely constructed during Michael Byers' ownership of the property. The estimated construction date of the Houck House is c. 1840. A deed recorded in 1854 reveals that Byers was the owner at that time (Clerk of Circuit Court Office of Carroll County [CCOCCC] 1854: Deed Book [DB] 16: 375). A search of Carroll County's records was undertaken to determine when, and from whom, Byers obtained the tract, but no such record could be located. Therefore, it is assumed that Byers owned the tract when it was still part of Frederick County prior to 1837.

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Byers retained the property until 1854 when he sold the tract of just over eight acres to Daniel Burns (CCOCCC 1854: DB 16: 375). Burns resided on the tract, probably living in the Houck House since a dwelling labeled Burns is shown in the approximate location of the Houck House on a Civil War era map of the county. Burns is listed in the 1860 census as Daniel Byrnes [sic]. Burns was listed as a 41-year old laborer. The census listed his real estate value at \$1,000 and his personal estate at \$100. He lived in his home with his wife Mary and their five children (Heritage Quest 2008a).

Burns held the tract until 1867 when he and Mary sold the tract to Josephus Powell. The acreage conveyed included the land Burns acquired from Byers, as well as land that he had purchased since the 1854 conveyance (CCOCCC 1867: DB 34: 497). The 1870 census lists Josephus Powel [sic] as a 32 year old farmer. The census recorded his real estate value at \$1,800 and his personal estate at \$400. Living in his home were his wife, their two children, a 20 year old farm laborer, and an infant (Heritage Quest 2008b).

Sometime between the 1870 census and 1881, the property was acquired by Daniel Caltrider. Caltrider mortgaged the property to Harvey C. Freeman in 1881. In 1884 Caltrider and Freeman jointly deeded the property to Noah C. Wantz (CCOCCC 1884: DB 62: 42).

Noah C. Wantz appears to have gotten into financial trouble and some of his land holdings had to be sold. An 1897 deed records Lewis D. Wantz, assignee, conveying seven separate parcels or tracts amounting to approximately 44 acres to Charles P. Babylon (CCOCCC 1897: DB 85: 228). Babylon retained the property for about six years before he deeded the 44 acres to Susan Lippy of Frederick County, Maryland (CCOCCC 1903: DB 99: 241).

Susan Lippy sold the 44 acres to Lewis Beard in 1907. At the time of the conveyance both parties were residents of Carroll County (CCOCCC 1907: DB 107: 432). Beard appears on the 1916 map as residing on the property, presumably in the Houck House. Lewis Beard kept the property for about 36 years before he sold the land to James M. Rorrer (CCOCCC 1943: DB 182: 170). The 1920 census reveals that Beard was a 41-year old farmer at the time. Also living at his residence were his 13 year old daughter, a housekeeper, and a boarder who worked as a farm laborer (Heritage Quest 2008c). A genealogy of the Beard family included a section on the Lewis Beard family. The genealogy did not contain any information on the Houck House or list any events of note in the life of Lewis Beard (Hall 1983).

In addition to the 44 acres conveyed to Rorrer, the deed included two other tracts. The aggregate total Beard deeded to Rorrer amounted to about 61 acres (CCOCCC 1943: DB 182: 170). About one month following his acquisition of Beard's property, Rorrer deeded all 61 acres to Winfield H. Ridgely and his wife Emma (CCOCCC 1943: DB 182: 333). Vernon L. Houck and his wife Mary purchased the 61 acres in 1945 (CCOCCC 1945: DB 187: 219). Vernon and Mary Houck are now deceased, but the property has remained in the Houck family.

Significance: The Houck House is recommended as eligible for the NRHP at a local level under Criterion C solely for its architecture and construction technique. The Houck House is a good example of an intact two-story log house that incorporates the construction technology of mid-nineteenth-century log building traditions. Log was the dominant building material in Carroll County from the period of European settlement until the late nineteenth century (Getty 1987). The interior of the log house reflects the regional German two-room floor plan, a type used by early Germanic settlers in central Maryland (Hofstra 2004). The Houck House is a rectangular shaped structure with a kitchen housed in a separate structure in close proximity to the main house. The house was constructed on a gentle slope that permitted the creation of the home's dug-out cellar with a ground level entrance. This particular method of house site selection is a distinguishing feature of Germanic houses in America (Getty 1987). The house still retains its significant original features including the original form, plan, interior flooring, interior wall plaster, interior doors, and both the first and second floor corner stairways. This house is a good example of the Pennsylvania German heritage and traditions

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in central Maryland. The resource is significant in the area of architecture and the period of significance is c. 1840-1945. The proposed National register boundaries encompass the house and the associated outbuildings located within the current 4.795 acre parcel as described in the current legal property description.

Historical research has not shown the Houck House to be associated with a significant historical person or event and, therefore, the resource is not recommended as eligible under Criterion A or B. Since an archaeological survey has not been conducted at the property, no recommendations are made of Criterion D.

Getty, Joseph

1987 ☐ Carroll's Heritage: Essays on the Architecture of a Piedmont Maryland County. County Commissioners of Carroll County and the Historical Society of Carroll County, Westminster, Maryland.

Hall, Sophia Jean Brown

☐ 1983 ☐ Beard: Family Record of John Frederick and Mary Catharine from ☐ ☐ ☐ Carroll County, Maryland. McDowell Publications, Utica, Kentucky.

Heritage Quest

2008a ☐ Image of the 1860 US Federal Census. Results for Daniel Byrnes of Carroll County, Maryland. Electronic document, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>, accessed December 8, 2008.

2008b ☐ Image of the 1870 US Federal Census. Results for Josephus Powel of Carroll County, Maryland. Electronic document, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>, accessed December 8, 2008.

2008c ☐ Image of the 1920 US Federal Census. Results for Lewis Beard of Carroll County, Maryland. Electronic document, <http://persi.heritagequestonline.com/hqoweb/library/do/census/search/basic>, accessed December 8, 2008.

Historic Map Works

☐ 2008 ☐ Image of Carroll County 1916 (Map). Electronic document, ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ <http://historicmapworks.com>, accessed December 11, 2008.

Hofstra, Warren

2004 ☐ The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley. Johns Hopkins Univerty Press, Baltimore, Maryland.

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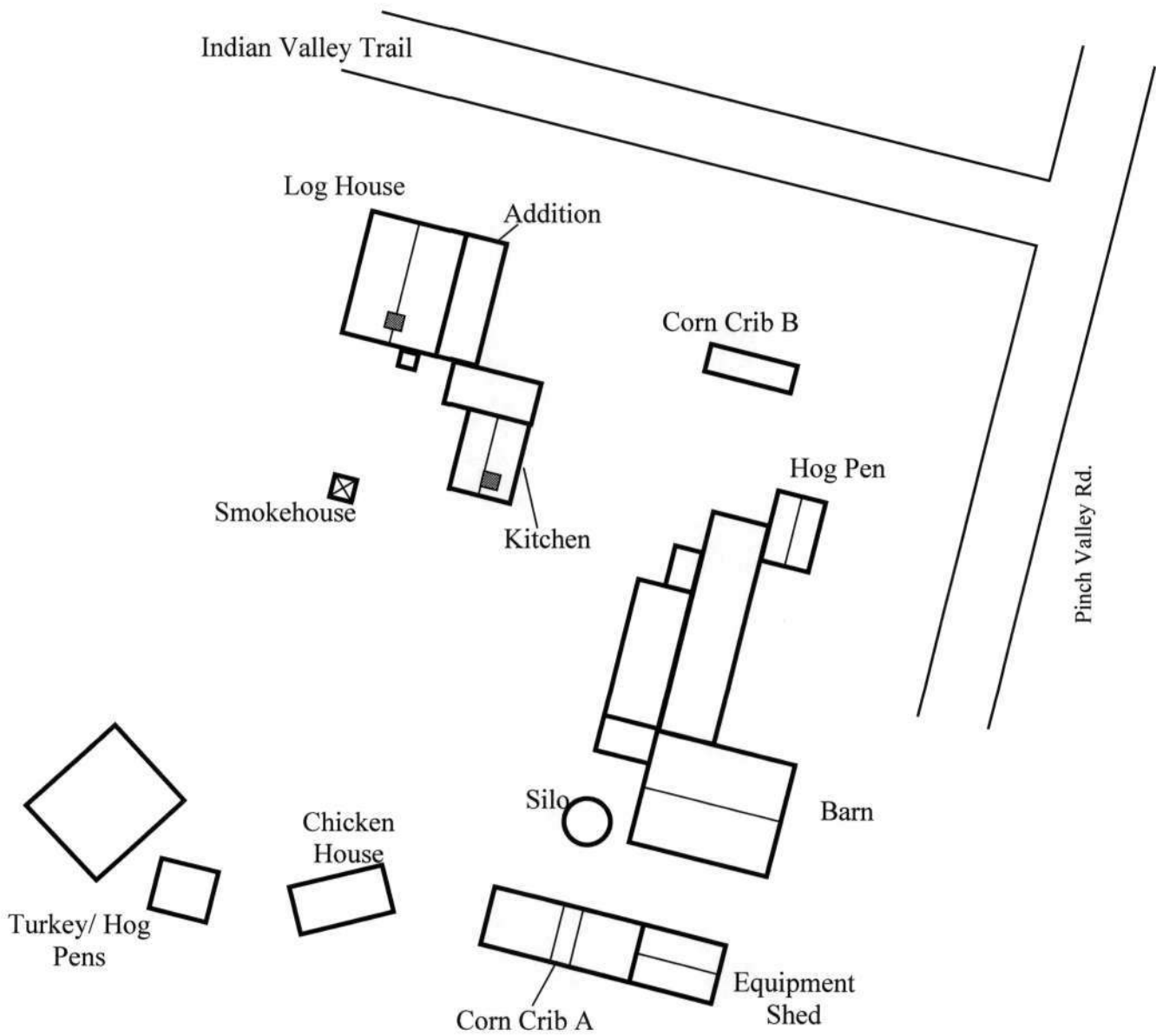
Eligibility not recommended _____

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Resource Sketch Map
1418 Pinch Valley Rd.
Houck House
CARR-1696
Westminster
Carroll County



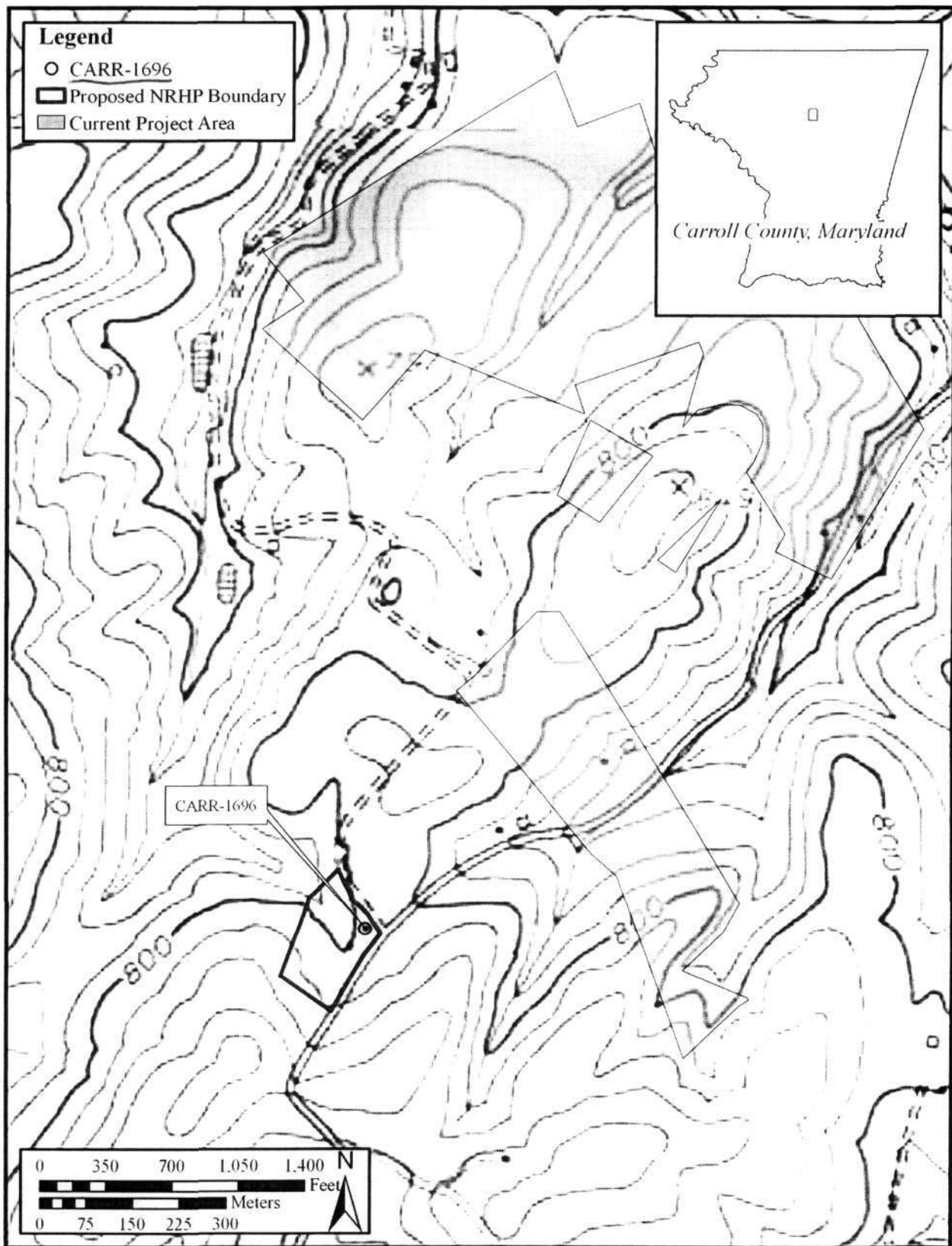
Houck House
CARR-1696
1418 Pinch Valley Road
Westminster, MD
Built c. 1840
Private Access

Built c. 1840, this log house rests on a solid foundation of randomly laid stone.

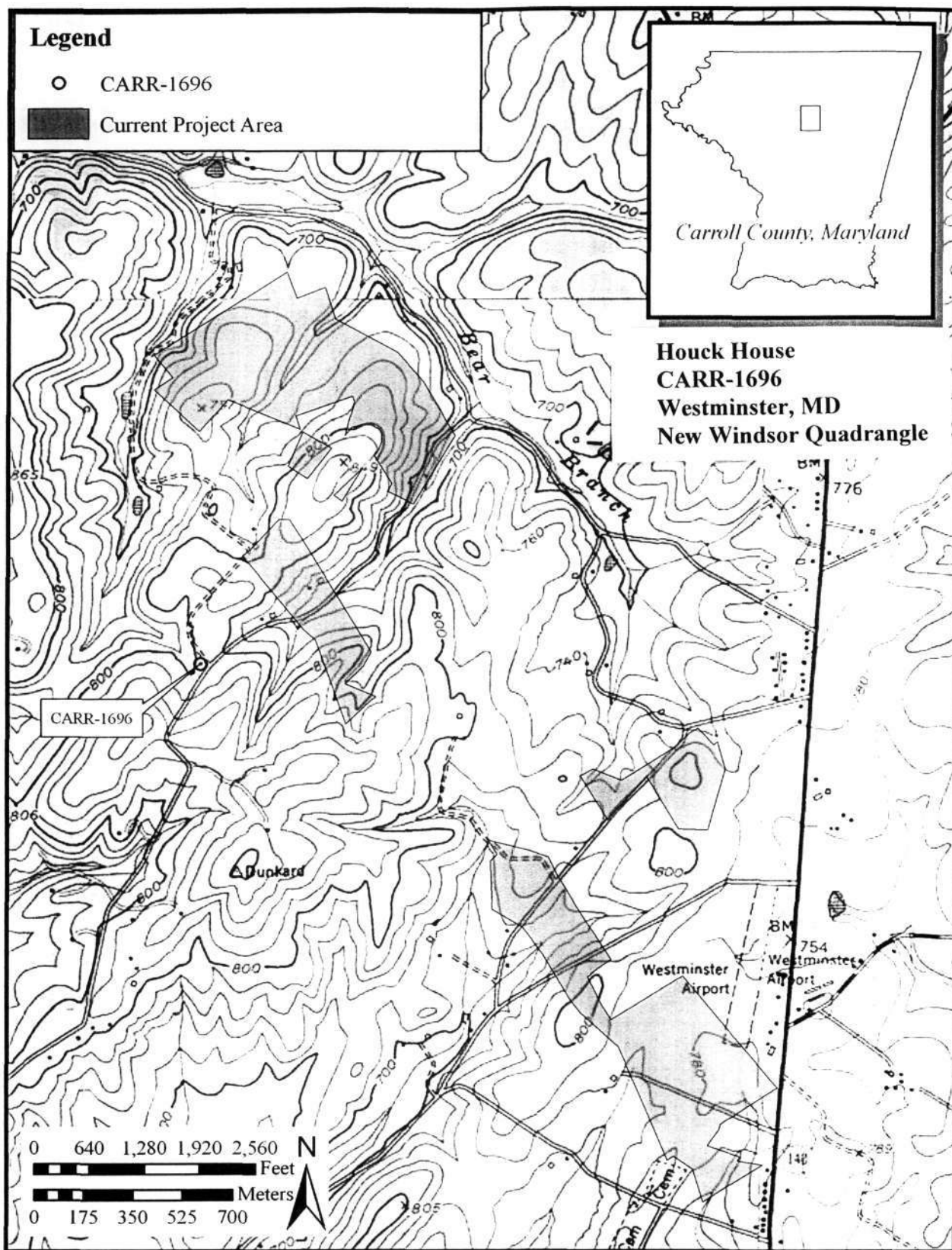
This two-story house has exterior walls clad in vinyl siding, and the gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal. A brick chimney is located on the interior section of the roof, and a second brick chimney is located on the exterior side. The front porch has been enclosed. Fenestration consists of one-over-one aluminum sash windows. South of the house is a summer kitchen that has been appended to the house by a covered walkway. The summer kitchen is clad in vinyl siding, and the gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal. A brick chimney is in the interior portion of the kitchen's roof, and the windows are six-over-six wooden double-hung sash.

To the south of the house is a large barn. The barn is connected to a smaller barn (hog pen) by a metal-clad animal shelter with a concrete block foundation. Southeast of the house are two corncribs and small barn. Southwest of the house are a chicken house, two turkey pens, and a smokehouse.

The house is recommended as potentially eligible for the NRHP under Criterion C, it was built during the Rural Agrarian Intensification to Industrial/Urban Dominance Period (1750-1870). The Houck House may be a good example of a two-story log house built during the mid-eighteenth century. The house may be an example of the log house form built by Germans after they immigrated to the area.



Proposed National Register of Historic Places Boundary for the Houck House (CARR-1696)
Shown on the New Windsor USGS Topographic Map.



Location of CARR-1696.



CARR 1696

HOUCK HOUSE

CARROLL CO., MD

B. HALL 12-3-08

MD SHPO

HOUSE, FACING W

PHOTO 1 OF 20

08-40

ROLL 2:14



CARR 1696
HOUCK HOUSE
Carroll Co. MD
B. Hall 12-3-2008
MD SHPO
House facing N
Photo 2 of 20
08-40
Roll 1:17



CARR 1696

HOUCK HOUSE

CARROLL CO., MD

B. HALL 12-3-08

MD SHPO

KITCHEN, E / HOUSE, FACING SE

PHOTO 3 OF 20

08-40

ROLL 2:13



CARR 1696

HOWCH. HOUSE

CARROLL CO. MD

B. HALL 12-3-08

MD SHPO

HOUSE + Kitchen, FACING E

PHOTO 4 OF 20

08-40

ROLL 2:9



CARR 1696
HOUCK HOUSE
CARROLL CO. MD
B. Hall 12-3-2008
MD SHPO

Log walls in STAIRWAY LOOKING DOWN FROM ATTIC, FACING E
photo 5 of 20
08-40
Roll 1:11



CARR 1696
HOUCK HOUSE
CARROLL CO. MD
B. Hall 12-3-2008
MD SHPO

Log walls in STAIRWAY TO ATTIC, FACING E
photo 6 of 20
08-40

Roll 1:12



CARR 1696
HOUCK HOUSE
Carroll Co. MD
B. Hall 12-3-2008

MD SHPO
Kitchen chimney facing W
photo 7 of 20
08-40
Roll 1:18



CARR 1896

Houck House

Carroll Co. MD

B. Hall 12-3-2008

MD SHPO

Floor in attic facing W

photo 8 of 20

08-40

Roll 1:10



Carr-1696

CCR#13

Houck House

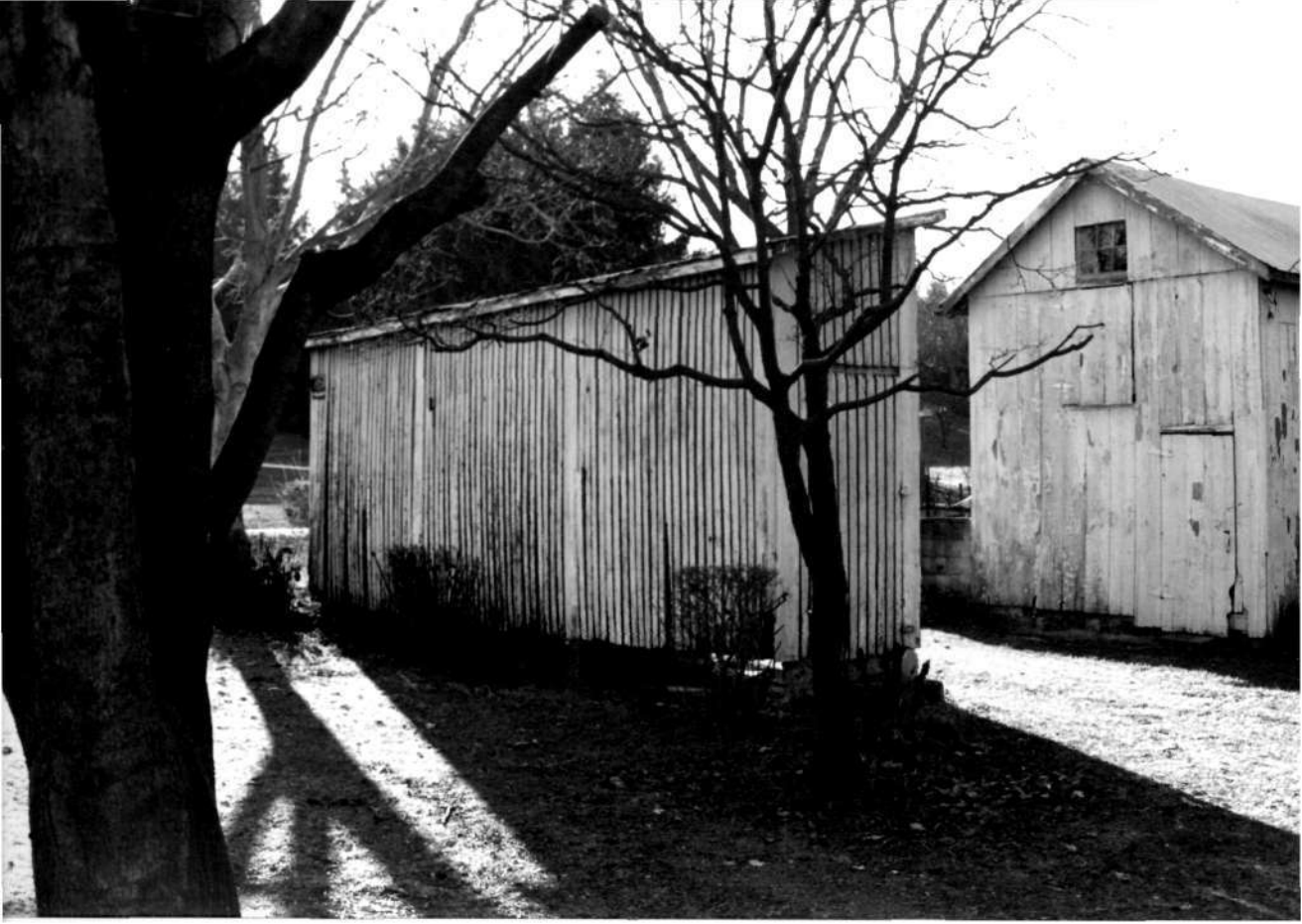
Carroll Co MD

J. Stewart 6-3-08

Corn crib facing SE

CC12 Photo 9 of 20

2008-06-03 11:20:10-00058100



CARR 1696
Houck House
Carroll Co. MD
B. Hall 123-2008
MD SHPO
Corn crib B facing SW
photo 10 of 20
08-40
Roll 1:21



CARR 1696
Houck House
Carroll Co MD
B. Hall 12-3-2008
MD SHPO
Barn, facing W
photo 11 of 20
08-40
Roll 1:24



Carr-1696

CCK#13

Hauk House

Carroll Co. MD

J. Stewart 6-3-08

Barn & Silo Complex facing W

CCK

Photo 12 of 20



CARR 1696
Houck House
Carroll Co. MD
B. Hall 12-3-2008

MD SHPD
Hog pen, facing NW
photo 13 of 20

08-40
Roll 1:25



Carr-1696

CCR#13

Houck House

Carroll Co. MD

J Stewart 6-3-08

Equipment shed, facing SW (+ Corner b)(A)

CCR Photo 14 of 20



Carr-1696

CER #13

Houck House

Campbell Co. MD

J. Stewart 6-3-08

Barn & Silo Complex, facing E

CER

Photo 15 of 20

00-12-0005#15A



CARR 1696
HUCK HOUSE
CARROLL CO., MD
B. HALL 12-3-08
MD SHPO
BARN, FACING S
PHOTO 16 OF 20
08-40
ROLL 2:8



CARR 1696
HOUCK HOUSE
Carroll Co MD
B. Hall 12-3-2008

MD SHPO

Hog pen facing SW
photo 17 of 20
08-40

Roll 1:22



CARR 1696

HOUCK HOUSE

CARROLL CO., MD

BILL HALL 12-3-08

MD SHPO

TURKEY/HOG PENS, FACING N

PHOTO 18 OF 20

08-40

ROLL 2:7



CARR 1696
HOUCK HOUSE
CARROLL CO., MD

B. HALL 12-3-08

MD SHPO

CHICKEN HOUSE, FACING N

PHOTO 19 OF 20

08-40

ROLL 2:6



Carr-1696

CCR#13

Houck House

Carroll Co. MD

J. Stewart 6-3-08

Smokehouse

CC12

Photo 20 of 20

Carroll County 00-12-000547A